

'It's the Elders That Are Wrong, Not Modern Youth,' Asserts Cobb

"WHY NOT START REFORM IN MEN'S CLOTHES TOO?"



"Wise Mothers Now Follow Modern Daughters in Dressing Sensibly"

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oped without any outlet for a tremendous amount of physical energy. Sex was something to be ashamed of. It was something low instead of a very beautiful thing. As far as sex in the lower animals was concerned, the girls were not allowed to recognize that it existed. Can you imagine the situation?

"There was even some dreadful connotation in the word 'bull.' It signified animal lust, evidently, and if this word were mentioned in front of a girl you always had to say 'gentleman cow'—a boar was always a gentleman pig. Somehow that seemed to smooth things over satisfactorily.

"OF COURSE SEX, THEN, HAD A TREMENDOUS LURE. THE UNKNOWN AND FORBIDDEN ALWAYS DOES. IT WAS ALWAYS TALKED OF AS SOMETHING VERY SECRET AND VERY PERNICIOUS. HAVING BABIES, INSTEAD OF BEING A SPLENDID AND MIRACULOUS THING, WAS SOME VERY DREADFUL THING, TO BE TALKED OF IN DARK WHISPERS BEHIND THE WOODSHED.

Teaching Sex Secrets

"Many a boy and girl has secured their first knowledge of sex and birth from the loud talk of men on the street corners or the low whispers of the maids in the kitchens. A giggled innuendo often spoiled a child's ideas all through life, and

would afterward color all his or her married life.

"Nowadays the parents explain it all to children before they are old enough to hear it from some one else. The amazing thing is the casual way they take it. Instead of being a dark and wondersome thing, they have very little more curiosity about it than they have about the way the grain grows in the fields. It's simply a biological fact to them, and nothing more, and they treat it as such.

"I think that is where grown-ups of today often fail to understand the youngsters. They still have a sort of hangover from the Victorian age, and do not realize that, after all, the discussions that the youngsters have mean very little more to them than a discussion of the merits of certain kinds of automobiles. IT'S THE OLDER PEOPLE THAT ARE WRONG, NOT THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

Prudery and Freedom

"Of course, the pendulum may go a bit too far. If you trace back to the times of the Puritans, and then up, you will find that after a period of freedom the pendulum always swings back to a period of strictest Puritanism.

"The human race does not seem to be able to strike a happy medium. This has always been so, but certainly freedom is by far the happiest choice.

"I love the girls of today. NO CORSETS—they used to be

STUDY the two pictures above and see if you agree with Irvin Cobb that the girls of today, in their natty one-piece bathing suits, are not less likely to produce a sense of sex consciousness than the girls of the dead yesterday, who wore long dresses on the beach and in the ocean, and were handicapped from indulging in any such innocent sportiveness as the group at right is enjoying. Can you imagine the women shown in the picture at left attempting to stage such a charming stir on the beach in the olden days? There'd have been a riot call for the police!

laced in with whalebone. NO BULGING LONG SLEEVES, AND HIGH COLLARS THAT ALMOST SEEMED TO CHOKE THEM. NO LONG DRESSES. I think that the clothes worn now are both colorful and beautiful. Go out to any beach or country club today and watch the young girls go by. THEY ARE SUPERBLY HEALTHY, SCANTILY CLOTHED AND ABLE TO GO INTO ALMOST ANY SPORT WITH THE FREEDOM OF A MAN.

"AS FAR AS SEX LURE IS CONCERNED WOMEN ARE MUCH MORE FASCINATING FULLY DRESSED, AND THESE YOUNG CREATURES ARE, MANY OF THEM, FAR TOO BUSY TO STOOP TO THE WILES OF THE OLD FASHIONED GIRL.

Athletic Girl's Day

"If you want to prove this some time," continued Mr. Cobb, shifting in his chair to toss his cigar ashes out of the window, "just watch a group of young people on the beach. A crowd of swimmers, male and female, will be pushing each other off the floats like a lot of puppies, diving double, diving under each other and up, with no sex consciousness whatever.

"Then let a new girl come on the beach in one of these bright

"Our Athletic Girls Today Do Not Stoop to Sex Wiles of the Past"

silk ruffled bathing suits, utterly aware of herself. Suddenly the atmosphere changes and for a moment they are all aware they are boys and girls—male and female—until they find she isn't much good in the water and they lose all interest. The time is past when any able bodied man swimmer wants to spend his time teaching any girl to swim.

Flappers Not a Type

"Sometimes I think that an author takes a certain type and creates an illusion, for instance, that a flapper is a wild young thing that drinks and smokes, has no manners and morals. Other novelists follow this and then we have the young girls wanting to be in the swim of things and imitating the type until a type is almost formed.

"I think that the flapper is more or less a figment of the imagination, as far as any distinct type is concerned. People are just as different now as they ever were and human nature never will change.

"It was the same way when a certain man created the character of a financial genius who looked like J. Pierpont Morgan, with a long, long, black cigar and a stern countenance. It began to seem that to be a financial genius one had to smoke long black cigars. It's the same way with the ideas we have about the rat-faced criminals. Now, criminals are not more rat-faced than any one else, but that is how they have been portrayed and how we all think of them. That's the way we think

of a flapper. Instead of classifying her as an individual, we are apt to classify her as a type.

"There's one thing I would like to say," declared Mr. Cobb vigorously. "When you talk of the clothes of the girls—WHY DOES NOT SOME ONE START A CRUSADE FOR MORE SENSIBLE CLOTHES FOR MEN? MOST MEN HATE THE KIND OF CLOTHES THEY WEAR, BUT HAVEN'T THE NERVE TO WEAR ANYTHING MORE COMFORTABLE! Look at the men on a hot day in August, all dressed up in heavy coats with padded linings. It's frightful. Do you think I would dare to wear a soft, turndown collar? No. Every one would say I was effeminate and trying to create a sensation.

Men Lack Nerve

"It just cannot be done until we have the nerve that the women have had—to banish all uncomfortable clothes and dress with a certain eye to common sense rather than to convention.

"Of course," he pointed to the brown Holland cloth smock he wore instead of a heavy coat, "I can get away with this all right in my own studio, but you can imagine the sensation if I appeared on the street! I would have a trail of curious people behind me a block long.

"There doesn't seem to be as much hope for us right now, as there was for the girls twenty years ago. But, never mind, it will come some day if you give us time. THEN THERE WILL BE A MEN'S REBELLION—AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF CLOTHING."